# THE BINGNEWS

#### White House tries to smooth row with India over diplomat's arrest

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House Wednesday tried to quell a row with India over the arrest and strip searching of one of its female diplomats in New York, which sparked a fierce backlash.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said that Washington understood why the issue was such a sensitive one in India, where there has been public outrage, but said the incident did not reflect the broad and healthy cooperation between the two countries.

"The United States and India enjoy a broad and deep friendship and this isolated episode is not indicative of the close and mutually respectful ties that we share," Carney said.

"We understand that this is a sensitive issue for many in India, and we are looking into the intake procedures surrounding this arrest, to ensure that all standard procedures were followed and that every opportunity for courtesy was extended."

Devyani Khobragade, a deputy consul general in New York, was arrested last week for allegedly paying a domestic worker a fraction of the minimum wage.

Her treatment has caused outrage in India, further fuelled by an email from Khobragade in which she says she had been repeatedly stripped and cavity-searched by the US authorities.

India ordered a range of measures in reprisal, including recalling identity cards for US consular officials, halting import clearances for the US embassy including for alcohol, and removing barricades outside the US mission in New Delhi.

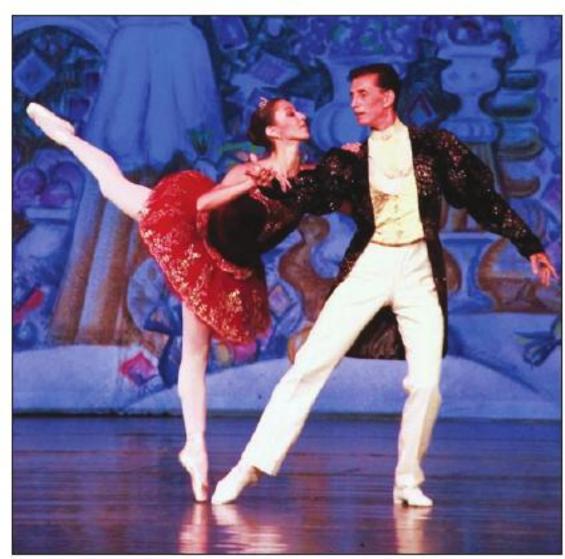
Continued on pg 6

#### Aruba's Erialda Croes wins Best National Costume in Japan



Aruba's Miss International 2013 Erialda Croes won the Miss National Costume award at the 53rd Miss International Beauty Pageant in Tokyo yesterday. Representatives from 67 countries and regions from all over the world took part in the pageant. Pabien Erialda from the whole Aruban community. We are proud of you!

# An inspired performance of "The Nutcracker" earned bravos at Cas di Cultura



ORANJESTAD -- The fifth anniversary performance, on Aruba, of Leonid Kozlov's interpretation of "The Nutcracker" left the audience breathless at the Cas di Cultura on Tuesday evening, December 17. The famed former star of the Bolshoi and New York City Ballet, a frequent visitor who has now made Aruba his home, expressed how pleased he was with the warm reception and overwhelming response by his adopted community to this beloved holiday production.

The Kozlov Dance Academy troupe of nearly sixty dancers of all ages, gave an enchanting performance of the two-part ballet, choreographed by Mr. Kozlov to Tchaikovsky immortal score. Mr. Kozlov and his wife, Prima Ballerina Adriana, performed many of the primary pieces, including the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Pas de Deux.

Continued on pg 2

# US review panel urges wide-ranging NSA spying overhaul

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A review board set up following revelations of vast US surveillance programs called yestersday for a wide-ranging overhaul of National Security Agency practices while preserving "robust" intelligence capabilities.

The panel set up by President Barack Obama issued 46 recommendations, including reforms at a secret national security court and an end to retention of telephone "metadata" by the spy agency.

The 308-page report submitted last week to the White House and released publicly yesterday says the US government needs to balance the interests of national security and intelligence gathering with privacy and "protecting democracy, civil liberties, and the rule of law."

Richard Clarke, a former White House counterterrorism aide who is a member of the review board, said, "We are not saying the struggle against terrorism is over." But Clarke added there were "mechanisms that can be more transparent, can have more independent oversight" and cited the need to "give the public a sense of trust that goes beyond what it is today."

The report also called for "significant steps" to be taken "to protect the privacy of non-US persons," and urged more cooperation with allies to avoid the diplomatic fallout from revelations of US intelligence gathering.

Panel members said the recommendations would not necessarily mean a rolling back of intelligence gathering, including on foreign leaders, but that surveillance must be guided by standards and by high-level policymakers.

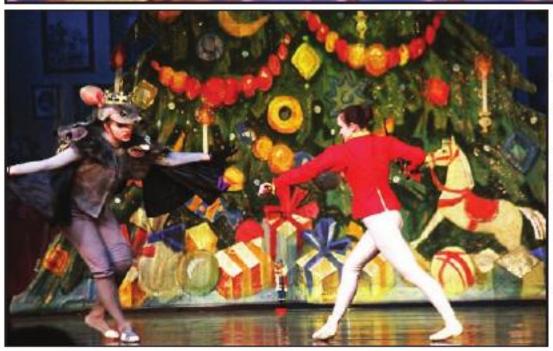
"In a free society, public officials should never engage in
surveillance in order to punish
their political enemies; to restrict freedom of speech or religion; to suppress legitimate
criticism and dissent, to help
their preferred companies or industries; to provide domestic
companies with an unfair competitive advantage; or to benefit
or burden members of groups
defined in terms of religion,
ethnicity, race, and gender."



#### An inspired performance of "The Nutcracker"...

Continued from pg 1







Guest dancer Rachel Finkeshteyn proved a delightful Clara. Other guest dancers in key roles were young Callie Mendburu as the flute player and veteran Katherine Wesperduin as in numerous roles. Elisabeth Marchini was highly entertaining as the Mouse King, facing off against Madeline Plotnik Nutcracker/Prince, in a beautifully choreographed battle.

Mr. Kozlov, who originally staged "The Nutcracker" at the Sydney Opera House in Australia in 1981, reported he could not be more pleased by his dancers or the enthusiasm of the audience during this performance of one of his favorite ballets.

The delicate Pas di Deux by Mr. Kozlov and his wife, Adriana, which closed the individual



dances, brought the audience to their feet, even earning praise from Aruba's Father of Culture, Juan Chabaya "Padu" Lampe. As they graciously accepted their bouquets and thanked the audience, they expressed their goal to see "The Nutcracker" become a part of holiday tradition on Aruba, as it is in so many cities across the world, and praised their local dancers and students for a wonderful performance.

By Rosalie Klein





#### Government helps preserve Festival di Dande....40th edition in 2014!



ORANJESTAD -- In connection with the 40th edition of Festival di Dande, the Minister of Culture Otmar Croes. together with the Department of Culture (DCS) and the organizers of the Children and Youth Festival di Dande and the Festival di Dande Harry Croes, President of the Celebration Commission Robert Maduro met. They held a press conference to invite the entire community to support one of the oldest celebrations of folklore and culture of Aruba.

Following different conversations with DCA as well as with the Commission in charge of the festival the Minister of Culture decided to lend support to this 40th edition of the Festival di Dande and other cultural festivals in the future. This is a celebrated for many generations

DCA is currently delineating their management. They have already stipulated that in April 2014 there will be a congress on culture on Aruba. In this manner they want to offer all cultural actors the necessary support so as to be able to introduce this important part of our society into our education and schools, according to the Minster of Culture.

The Minister indicated that the government wants to have the Festival di Dande and our 60th Carnival documented by DCA to preserve this as part of our cultural and historic heritage. This has to become a part of the curriculum of our schools Cutural themes must be introduced to our children so they can learn of the roots of our Aruban culture.

#### Aruba Bank signs agreement with Musica Organization as one of the main sponsors of the Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba
Bank was proud to announce
their hearty support for
Aruba's grand festival of
Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014.
Aruba's upcoming 60th anniversary Carnaval Celebration promises to be a grand
affair, with the entire community eagerly awaiting the Diamond Jubilee event.

For this reason, Aruba Bank is proud to join the celebration by supporting the Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014 competition, one of the main events of the carnival season, where creativity, unity and fantasy is celebrated. They feel their contribution will make this event even bigger.

"Carnaval is part of our culture and Aruba Bank supports our culture," said Executive Director of Aruba Bank N.V., Mrs. Nataly Simmons, after signing the agreement with Mr. Hilward Croes. "As part of our corporate responsibility as a bank, we support this grand festival. Music is one of the main aspects which cannot be missed in our Carnaval."

Hilward Croes, President of the Musica Organization and representative of all local musicians indicated. "We are very happy for the support received from Aruba Bank and foresee a huge and successful year concerning the 2014 Festival. In 2013 Aruba Bank already sustained this festival and we are thankful to once again be able to count on their support."

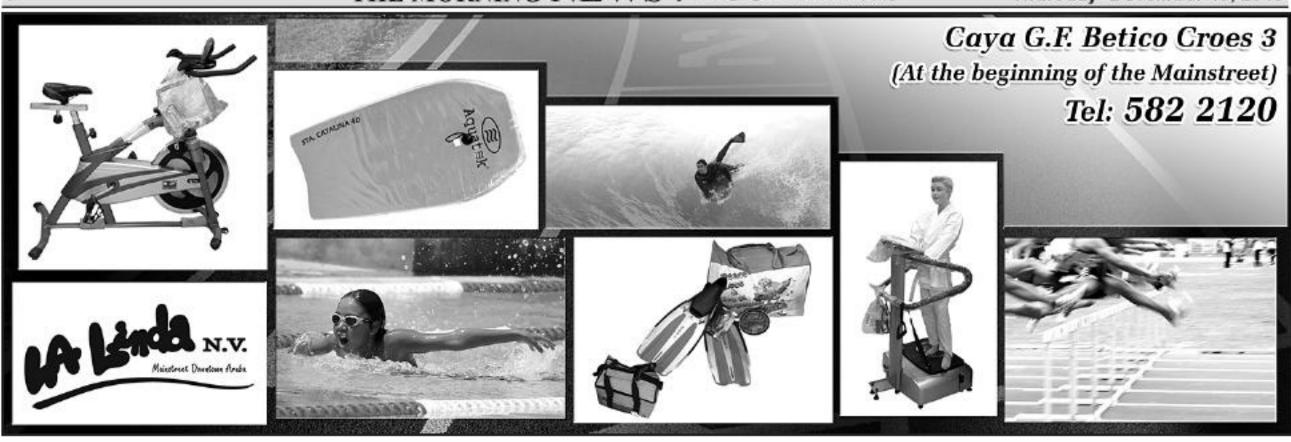
The grand musical event of the Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014 is scheduled to begin with its pre-final contests on February 11, 12 and 13. The



Executive Director of Aruba Bank N.V. Mrs. Nataly Simmons and President of Musica Hilward Croes seals the deal

grand finale and announcement of the winner will take place on February 15th, at the Carnaval Village in San Nicolas. Updates regarding the Caiso & Monarch 2014 Festival and contestants will be announced in local papers





# Playa Linda recognizes employees as its most important asset













Rolando de Cuba

Santiago Aldea

Lucio Piter

PALM BEACH - The Playa Linda Beach Resort once again recognized its valued employees with an annual luncheon marking the milestone work anniversaries of colleagues whose years of dedicated service has resulted in the timeshare resort's high ratings. The group of staffers, along with representatives from management, recently shared a festive meal at J.H. Yee's Asian Bistro.

Honored employees each received a plaque and the customary envelope along with the appreciation of their fellow colleagues.

Among the honorees were Justine Tasha Cremony from the Front Office, and Nidia Boekhoudt-Helder, from the Executive Office, who have all proven valuable additions to the Playa Linda team, and Felicita Cuesta Colon were recognized for their 5 w

years on the job.

Marking 10 years, Felecita
Cuesta-Colon, from Housekeeping, and Lucio Piter,
from the Front Office, each
also received praise.

An impressive 15 years was reached by Rolando de Cuba, from the Front Office.

Even more remarkable are those individuals on the job with the Playa Linda for more than 20 years: Santiago Aldea-Nuñez, from Grounds, with 20 years; Adela Orman, from Housekeeping, and Marlyn Filomena Tromp, from Accounting, with 25 years, and with 30 years, Ingrid Todd from Housekeeping.

Special attention was given to Ingrid Todd, who has spent her entire career dedicated to the Playa Linda, starting out as an entry-level housekeeper and working her way up to the top position of Executive Housekeeper. Management also recognized Prudencio Maduro, better known as "Deng", for his 17 years of service and who's now leaving the company at age 70 to enjoy his well-de-

Justine Cremony

served retirement

Through its annual anniversary lunch, mid-year party and year-end event, as well as numerous special activities, outings and trainings held throughout the year, the Playa Linda Beach Resort provides recognition and support to all of its employees. It is because of their efforts that the Pla-ya Linda continues to achieve accolades, such the 2014 RCI Gold Crown Resort® designation, in recognition of its superior resort facilities and services.

The Playa Linda also continues to maintain Interval International's Premier Status, and remains the only Palm Beach-area resort to hold the environmentally-friendly and management-smart ISO 14001 certification.

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#### The PTA of Aruba International School brings holiday cheer to the children of Casa Cuna



ORANJESTAD -- Casa Cuna Progresso is a live-in center for children ages infant to seven years from troubled homes. The Director of Casa Cuna, Quilin Arends-Maduro, was very pleased to welcome a delegation from the PTA of the International School of Aruba (ISA), which conducted a fundraising drive for the foundation over the last month. They brought with them boxes and bags of items donated by ISA parents, as well as purchased by the PTA from monies collected.

PTA President Vanessa

Van de Veldt-Tjoa and her committee, consisting of Shiela Knight, Julie Hamilton Smith and Sheryl Muyali, spearheaded the campaign to accumulate donated toys, clothing, kitchen utensils, bedding and even a flat-screen TV, which was turned over to the center on Tuesday afternoon, Decem-

Various events were conducted, including a Christmas Concert, to raise funds and gather goods for Casa Cuna. All parents of the students of the ISA were informed of the project, and Vanessa remarked they initially experienced a slow start, but gained momen-

tum. They are highly gratified by the generous outpouring and demonstration of charity for those less for-

Two of the teenage students at ISA. Pavan Sawilani and Adi Varde, accompanied the PTA ladies, as they, with members of their youth group, Act For Change, or AFC, conducted their own fundraising events to assist with the project. AFC had adopted Casa Cuna as one of favored charities more than a year ago, and were pleased to participate in this current effort. Accompanying the PTA members were their children, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience of helping others and meeting the young charges

of Casa Cuna.

The substantial collection of dolls, playthings and crafting sets were laid out for the children of the center to select whatever appealed to them. Many other important items were also donated, such as bedding and sundry needs of the center.

Mrs. Arends-Maduro expressed her gratitude and great pleasure at seeing young people so enthusiastic regarding helping the less fortunate, and enjoying the emotional rewards of volunteer work.

Photo depicts The PTA of Aruba International School bringing holiday cheer to the children of Casa Cuna

By Rosalie Klein



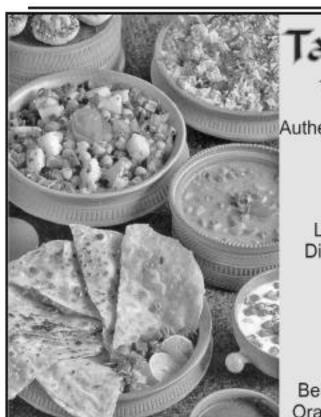
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- \* Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter this promotion at any time.

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### White House tries to smooth row...

#### Cont. from pg 1

(AFP) - US authorities say she not only paid a domestic servant a fraction of the minimum wage but also lied in a visa application for the employee, an Indian national who has since absconded.

In an email to colleagues published Wednesday, Khobragade said she told arresting authorities that she had diplomatic immunity -- only to suffer repeated searches and to be jailed with "common criminals".

India has transferred a diplomat at the centre of a political row with the United States to its UN mission in New York to give her full diplomatic immunity, local media reported Wednesday.

"I must admit that I broke

down many times as the indignities of repeated handcuffing, stripping and cavity searches, swabbing, in a hold-up with common criminals and drug addicts were all being imposed upon me despite my incessant assertions of immunity," she said in the email.

"I got the strength to regain composure and remain dignified, thinking that I must represent all of my colleagues and my country with confidence and pride."

The revelation that a highranking diplomat could be subjected to such treatment has caused huge offence in a country that sees itself as an emerging world power.

### Multinational effort takes shape to remove Syria chemical arms

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Russian armoured trucks will help take Syria's chemical weapons out of the country, tracked by US satellite equipment and Chinese surveillance cameras, in an unprecedented international operation, the world's chemical watchdog said.

The details are part of an ambitious plan unveiled by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at a meeting of its Executive Council published Wednesday despite delays to the overall operation which aims to be completed by mid-2014.

Several nations have already announced their offers of help, including the US, which is to destroy "hundreds of tonnes" of Category One chemicals -- including mustard gas, sarin and VX nerve gas -- aboard a speciallyequipped ship in international waters.

A Danish and a Norwegian frigate are waiting in Cyprus to escort Nordic cargo ships to collect the chemicals from Syria's main port Latakia, but the hazardous materials are still at 12 sites around Syria.

The Nordic vessels will take the chemicals to an Italian port, where they will be loaded onto the US ship for destruction, before returning to Latakia to pick up the remaining chemicals to be destroyed at commercial facilities outside of Syria.

The OPCW had set itself a December 31 deadline for the most dangerous chemicals to be taken out of Syria, via Latakia, but that date is likely to be pushed back.

Syria's most dangerous chemicals must be destroyed by March 31.

### Stunned Kerry says US won't abandon typhoon-hit Philippines

TACLOBAN (AFP) - A stunned Secretary of State John Kerry toured a typhoon-devastated Philippine city on Wednesday, pledging more US aid as its Asian ally appealed for international help to fund an \$8.17 billion rebuilding plan.

"This is a devastation unlike anything that I have ever seen at this scale," Kerry said while visiting a temporary US aid supply depot for survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan in the central city of Tacloban.

"It really is quite stunning.
It looks like a war zone in
every respect and for a lot of
people it is," he told reporters.

Tacloban, a city of 220,000 people, bore the brunt of Haiyan's fury last month as towering tsunamilike waves whipped up by the storm obliterated its coastal districts.

Nearly 8,000 people were killed or remain missing in central provinces, with Tacloban accounting for more than 5,000 of the total

"Entire communities levelled, water up to the second storey of the airport tower, and all of this covered in water," Kerry said, gesturing toward tents during his visit to the US Agency for International Development depot near Tacloban's airport.

He said President Barack Obama had sent him to offer condolences and assure Filipinos of unwavering efforts in assisting them.

Kerry announced \$25 million in extra aid, raising Washington's Haiyan relief effort to nearly \$87 million, a US embassy statement said.

Two US firms, Procter and Gamble and Coca-Cola, will help repair, restock and reopen more than 2,000 small groceries in typhoon-hit areas, it added.

"Last month's typhoon broke the world's heart, but what is certain is that it didn't break the spirit of the people here," Kerry stressed.

The United States, a longtime military ally of the Philippines, sent an aircraft carrier group and committed 1,000 Marines in a massive aid airlift in the desperate first few days after the typhoon, when Tacloban and other areas were cut off by road.

The still impoverished Philippines is battered by an average of 20 storms a year, and Filipinos have long had to deal with weather-related disasters as best they can

But the fury of Haiyan, with its maximum 315 kilometre (195 mile) per hour winds, was unprecedented

It wrecked 1.2 million homes, caused some \$12.9 billion in damage and left 4.4 million homeless, according to the Philippine government.

#### Second worst year for journalists in jail: watchdog

NEW YORK (AFP) - The number of journalists killed and imprisoned fell in 2013 but it was still the second worst year on record for reporters in prison, a US-based watchdog said Wednesday.

So far this year, 52 journalists have been killed as a direct result of their work, down from 73 last year, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), based in New York.

For the second consecutive year, Turkey was the world's leading jailer of journalists, followed closely by Iran and China.

Those countries accounted for more than half of the 211 journalists imprisoned around the world in 2013.

"Jailing journalists for their work is the hallmark of an intolerant, repressive society," said CPJ executive director Joel Simon

In Vietnam, the number of journalists behind bars rose from 14 in 2012 to 18 after what CPJ called an intensified crackdown on bloggers.

CPJ said it was the second worst year since records began in 1990 in terms of journalists behind bars. In 2012, there were 232.

The civil war in Syria, which has killed more than 126,000 people and created 2.4 million refugees, represented the deadliest country for journalists for a second year run-

CPJ said 21 reporters were killed in Syria, six in Egypt, five in Pakistan, four in Somalia, three in Brazil and another three in Iraq. In Mali and Russia, two were killed.

One journalist was killed each in Turkey, Bangladesh, Colombia, Philippines, India and Libya.

The number of journalists imprisoned by the Syrian government fell from 15 in 2012 to 13, but dozens of others have been abducted and are believed to be held by armed opposition groups.

About 30 journalists are missing in Syria.



#### Italy migrant video sparks European outrage

ROME (AFP) - A video of a group of migrants being washed down in a centre on the Italian island of Lampedusa has caused a wave of outrage in Rome and Brussels, less than three months after a shipwreck in which hundreds

The male migrants -- some of them naked -- are shown queuing up to be disinfected after being checked by nurses in what appears to be an open space at the centre in footage shown by Rai 2 state televi-

The EU's Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem on Wednesday condemned "appalling conditions" at some of the migrant centres in Italy including Lampedusa and said an EU investigation was already under way.

"The EU is committed to assist Italy in receiving migrants, but it has to be done in decent conditions," Malmstroem said on Twitter, adding: "We will not hesitate to launch an infringement procedure to make sure EU standards and obligations are fully respected."

After Lampedusa's mayor Giusi Nicolini said the images were reminiscent of "a concentration camp", Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta promised to investigate and to pun-



ish anyone held responsible.

The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR in a statement joined the chorus of outrage, which coincides with the UN's International Migrants Day.

"The constant overcrowding that occurs is unsustainable and leads to a situation where, despite the efforts of humanitarian workers, the assistance offered is far below the minimum standards," spokesman Laurens Jolles said

But Cono Galipo, the head of the contractor that runs the Lampedusa centre on behalf of the interior ministry, rejected the accusations.

Galipo said in a radio interview that the migrants seen lining up naked had in fact stripped down because they were "impatient" as they awaited their disinfection shower and had "clearly staged the images seen".

Tens of thousands of migrants land in Italy every year, paying sometimes thousands

the shores of Egypt, Libya or Turkey on rickety and badly overcrowded boats.

Italy complains it has to shoulder an unfair burden as one of the main points of entry for migrants into Europe, although countries in northern

of euros (dollars) each to

smugglers who ship them from

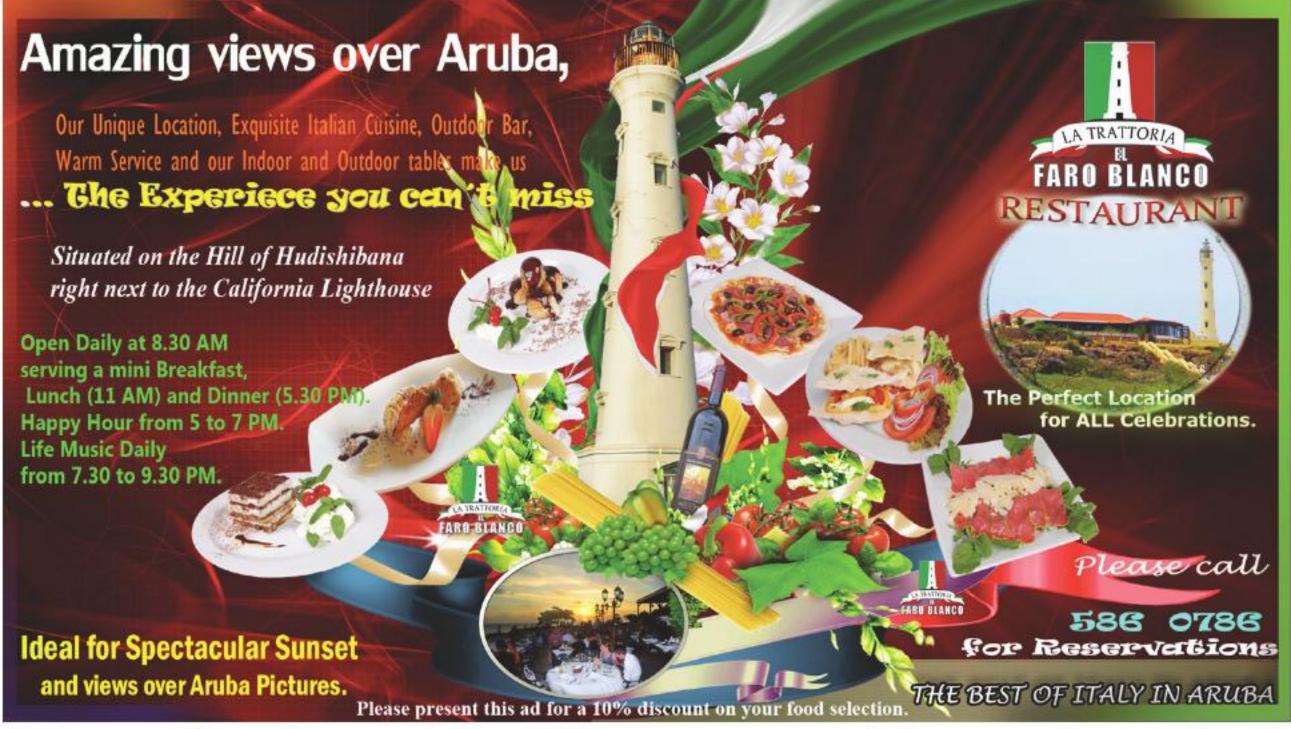
Europe point out that they resettle a far higher share of refugees.

Many of the migrants transit through Lampedusa, a tiny island that is closer to the Tunisian coast than to the rest of Italy and has turned into a major gateway for irregular migration into the European

The latest figures show 14,000 migrants have transited through Lampedusa so far this

The island's 381-bed facility is often too full and many migrants have been forced to stay in unsanitary conditions and sleep out in the open, awaiting transfer to other migrant centres in the rest of Italy.





### China confirms human death from new bird flu type

SHANGHAI (AFP) - A 73year-old Chinese woman has died of a type of bird flu new in humans, health officials say, but experts believe the risk of it spreading between people is low.

The woman died of the H10N8 strain in the southeastern city of Nanchang on December 6, the Jiangxi provincial health department said in a statement on its website.

Biologists say the strain has never been detected in humans before.

Bird flu infections raise fears that a virus could mutate to become easily transmissible, potentially triggering a pandemic.

An outbreak of H7N9 bird flu has infected at least 139 people on the mainland and resulted in 45 deaths, but fatalities have dropped significantly since the end of June.

Other cases of H7N9 infection were also reported in Hong Kong and Taiwan. The woman in Nanchang was admitted to hospital on November 30 with severe pneumonia and died of respiratory failure and shock, the provincial health department's statement said.

She had visited a local live poultry market before succumbing to the virus, it added.

People who have been in close contact with the woman have not shown any signs of illness so far, it said.

Local health officials also cited unnamed experts as saying initial assessments suggested the death was an individual case and the risk of the virus spreading between humans was low.

The H10N8 bird flu strain has never been detected in humans before, University of Hong Kong microbiologist Yuen Kwok-yung told Hong Kong Cable TV on Tuesday.

In August scientists reported the first likely case of direct person-to-person transmission of H7N9.

# Pfizer reaches settlement with Teva on generic Viagra

NEW YORK (AFP) - Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Tuesday announced that it settled patent litigation against Teva Pharmaceuticals over the sale of a generic version of blockbuster drug Viagra in the United States.

The settlement means Israel-based Teva "will be allowed to launch a generic version of Viagra in the US on December 11, 2017 or earlier under certain circumstances," Pfizer said in a statement

"Teva will pay Pfizer a royalty for a license to produce its generic version," Pfizer said.

Other terms of the agreement were confidential.

Patents for Viagra, which treats erectile dysfunction, expire in April 2020, Pfizer said.

In June 2010, Pfizer lost its patent in Brazil to exclusively sell the drug. Pfizer's patent for Viagra has also expired in Europe and Japan.

The US Food and Drug Administration has granted tentative approval for Teva's generic version of Viagra, said Teva, which is the world's biggest generic drug maker.

#### The mystery of America's 'virgin births'

PARIS (AFP) - One in every 200 young American women says she became pregnant while still a virgin.

That is the eye-popping figure reported on Tuesday by US researchers who trawled through a long-term study into reproductive health among young Americans.

Out of 7,870 women who took part in the confidential research, 45 -- 0.5 percent -- said they had conceived yet had not had vaginal intercourse.

None said they had used invitro fertilisation (IVF) to become pregnant, according to the paper, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ). Out of the 45, "there were some miscarriages and other pregnancy losses," said the authors.

The study was based on the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, which ran from 1995 to 2009, spanning life between adolescence and adulthood. It is deemed reliable and representative of US social and ethnic backgrounds.

The young women reported their history of vaginal intercourse and pregnancy and their knowledge of birth control methods.

Over 14 years, they responded to regular questionnaires, logging their answers on a laptop rather than in eyecontact interviews, although a helper was also present in the room in case the volunteer needed aid.

Their age and commitment to a religion were also recorded, their parents were asked to say how much they had talked about sex or birth control and their school's director was asked to say what part sex education had in the curriculum.

Nearly a third -- 31 percent
-- of the "virgin pregnancy"
group said they had made a
chastity pledge, a vow often
promoted by conservative
Christian church groups which
argue sex should only take
place in the context of marniage.

In "non-virgins" who had become pregnant, 15 percent had made the chastity pledge. Among those who said they were still a virgin, the proportion of chastity pledgers was 21 percent.

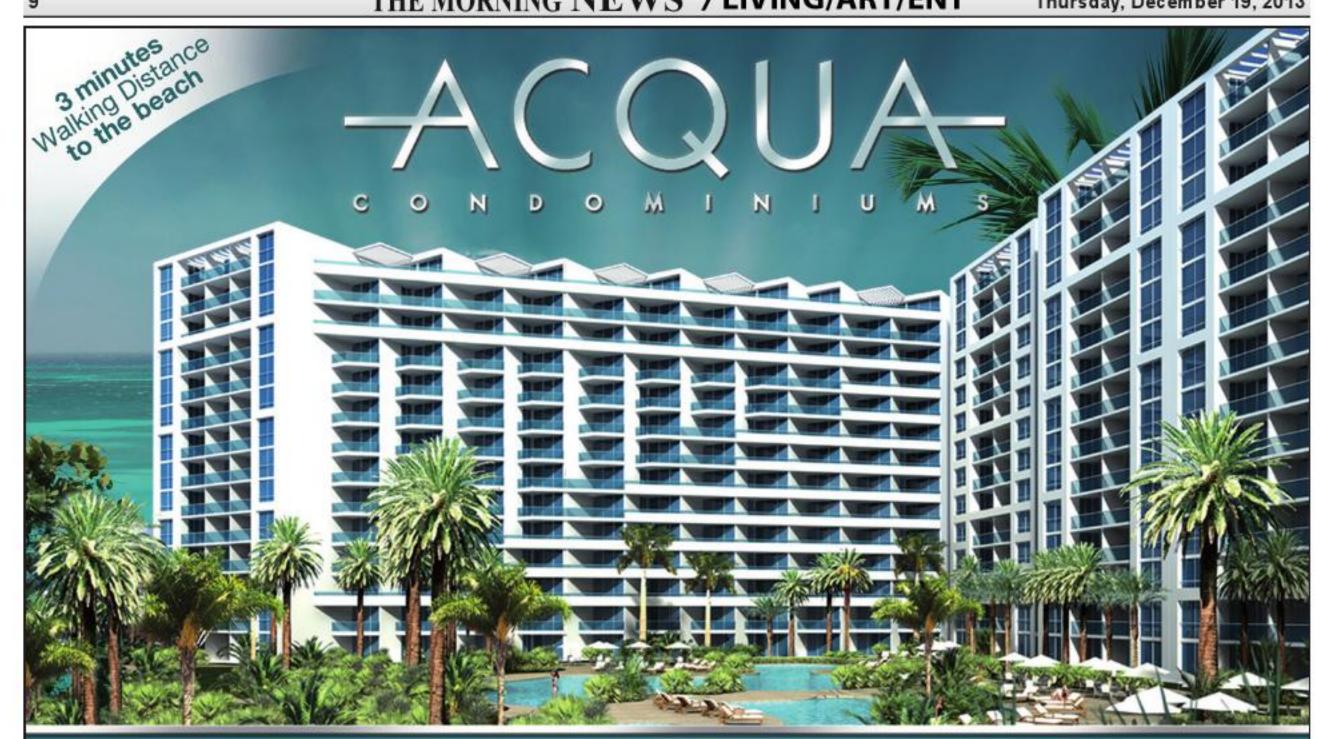
"Virgin mothers" were also more than two years younger, being 19.3 years on average when they gave birth, compared to "non-virgin" mothers whose average age at parenthood was 21.7 years.

The findings raise intriguing questions about sexual education and awareness but also about the difficulties of getting accurate data about sex lives, she said in a phone interview with AFP.



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#### Football-mad Pope Francis greets his winning team



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis warmly greeted players from his favourite football team San Lorenzo after a general audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday, following their victory in the national championship in Argentina. The Vatican said the 77-year-old Argentine pontiff, who is still a member of the club that he used to watch in Buenos Aires as a child with his father, was delighted when they clinched the title on Sunday. The delegation of players and team managers handed a smiling Francis their championship trophy as well as the club's red-and-blue jersey with "Francisco Campeon" ("Francis Champion") emblazoned on the back. The pontiff has pushed for sports to take a more prominent place in the Catholic Church, championing team games as good for mind, body and soul and calling for more "spiritual athletes." The club -- officially known as Club Atletico San Lorenzo de Almagro -- dedicated their victory to him. San Lorenzo will now represent Argentina in the annual Copa Libertadores South American football tournament.

#### Filipina crowned Miss **International**



TOKYO - Miss Philippines Bea Rose Santiago took home the crown in the 53rd Miss International pageant, held at the Shinagawa Prince Hotel Hall in Tokyo, Japan on Tuesday.

Bea Rose impressed the judges during the Q&A portion where she said she wants to "sustain the spirit of sympathy and hope," when asked about what she would do if she wins the crown

Miss Netherlands Nathelie Den Dekker was crowned first runner-up, while Miss New Zealand Casey Radley was declared second runner-up. Miss Colombia Lorena Hermida and Miss Hungary Brigitta Otvos were included in the Top 5.

#### Italy police kiss photo goes viral



ROME (AFP) - The photo of a young Italian woman kissing a police officer's helmet visor during a protest has gone viral, with a police union threatening to sue her for "sexual violence". The 20-year-old student, Nina De Chiffre, was snapped by a photographer working for AFP as she went to kiss the policeman, Salvatore Piccione, at a protest against a new high-speed rail line in the Alps. Her act was interpreted by many as a loving gesture and proved a hit on social media, although the photographer Marco Bertorello and De Chiffre herself pointed out that it was intended as an act of mockery. The November 16 demonstration had brought thousands of protesters to the picturesque Val di Susa where the contested line is being built between France and Italy. Franco Maccari, the head of the COISP police union, earlier this month vowed to sue the protester for "sexual violence and insulting a public official". Contacted by AFP, prosecutors said they had not received a lawsuit but said one could still be submitted for 90 days after the protest.



#### EU wants cloned meat off the table

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission said Wednesday it would ban meat from cloned animals but stopped short of imposing restrictions on produce from the offspring of such animals, a hugely sensitive issue.

Animal rights groups attacked the plan as not going far enough on an issue which has divided public opinion since the successful cloning of 'Dolly the Sheep' in the 1990s.

Critics say cloning is unnatural, causes unnecessary suffering to animals and risks dangerous unintended consequences while supporters see it as offering untold new possibilities to improve human life.

Introducing the planned rules, EU Health Commissioner Tonio Borg said the commercial cloning of farmed animals and the import of cloned animals will be banned in the 28-member bloc.

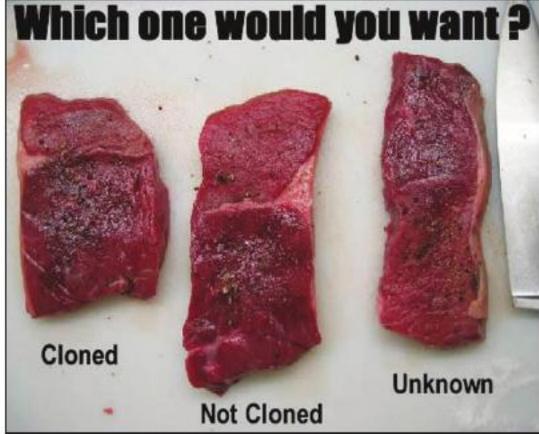
He added that the marketing of food from cloned animals would also be prohibited, but that research into cloning would be allowed.

"These proposals intend to address animal welfare and other ethical concerns related to the use of the technique," the Commission said.

However, "there is no proposal on labelling" any produce arising from the offspring of cloned animals, be it milk or meat, said Borg.

The only country cloning animals as a food source within the European Union is Denmark.

While cloned meat is not



often eaten because of its high price, the embryos and semen of such animals are exported and widely used.

The United States, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are among countries that farm the offspring of cloned animals.

Although the European Union imports between 300,000 and 500,000 tonnes of beef from the United States and Argentina, they are not required to specify the origin of the meat with specific labelling.

A move by European Parliament lawmakers to impose clear labelling on imported meat fell apart in 2011 over opposition from member states, which deemed such a regulation excessive.

Any such regulation would have required the United States and Argentina to carry out checks on meat sources, and risked sparking a trade war in case of non-compliance.

The EU and United States are now negotiating what would be the world's biggest free trade agreement, with food safety issues and standards a major problem area as both sides seek to win greater market access for their produce.

The Commission said it considered the labelling of food from the offspring of cloned animals but decided that it would have been an overly complicated process.

"This requires that parentage information for every food producing animal is conveyed through the food production chain." it said.

"This becomes more complicated and therefore costly with every generation between the clone and the animal, reproductive material and the food," it said.

It was therefore holding off such labelling to give more time for a feasibility study to be carried out.

Reineke Hameleers, who heads the Eurogroup for Animals, criticised the Commission's proposals, saying that they did not go far enough.

Not only does the ban not come in force immediately, it also does not include a prohibition on produce from the offspring of cloned animals, Hameleers said.

The group opposes cloning on ethical, animal welfare and health grounds. It quotes scientists saying that mortality of cloned animals is considerably higher than for other animals.

The latest proposals by the European Commission will have to be put to the European Parliament and member states, and are not expected to come into force before 2016.





# UN: World faces 'bumpy' fallout from end to US spending

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) -The United Nations said yesterday that the world economy should grow in 2014 but faces a "bumpy" ride when the US government starts ending its major stimulus spending.

The UN's annual World Economic Situation and Prospects report predicted the global economy would grow by 3.0% in 2014 and 3.3% in 2015, up from an estimated 2.1% in 2013.

UN experts said they were more positive about the world economy as euro-using countries were emerging from recession and US growth has strengthened.

"A few large emerging economies, including China and India, managed to backstop the deceleration they experienced in the past two years and veered upwards moder-

ately," said the report. "These factors point to increasing global growth."

The UN report said inflation will remain "tame" but creating jobs will remain difficult. It predicted international trade will grow by 4.7% in 2014 but the price of most commodities will remain "flat."

The UN said there were risks however from "a possible bumpy exit from the quantitative easing programs" used by the US Federal Reserve to spur the economy during the economic crisis of recent years.

The report was released just before the Fed announced that it will start cutting back its spending in January. It will spend \$75 billion a month on bonds from starting in January, down from the \$85 billion a month it has spent for a year in an effort to keep down interest

rates to stimulate growth and jobs.

"Efforts by the Fed to pull out of quantitative easing programs could lead to a surge in long term interest rates," said the report, adding that there could also be a sell-off in global equities and a fall in capital flows to emerging economies.

The report also raised doubts about "fragility" in the banking system and the euro economy and "continued political wrangling in the US on the debt ceiling and the budget."

It said rising tensions in the Middle East and elsewhere "could derail the world economy."



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## EU ministers edge towards banking union deal

market conditions over that period as consistent with growing underlying strength in the

In updates of its economic forecasts, the Fed projected gross domestic product growth between 2.8 percent and 3.2 percent, a tenth point wider than the 2.9-3.1 percent range it projected in September.

broader economy."

It projected the unemployment rate, currently at 7.0 percent, would fall to a range of 6.3-6.6 percent by the end of next year, an improvement from the prior estimate of 6.4-6.8 percent.

The Fed, as widely expected, held its key interest rate at 0-0.25 percent where it has been for five years to support the recovery from recession.

BRUSSELS (AFP) - EU finance ministers yesterday edged closer to a final deal on a banking union which will hand Brussels unprecedented new powers to prevent failing banks from wrecking the economy.

"The problem is not the accord itself ... but there are many technical and bureaucratic problems to resolve," an EU diplomatic source said.

The banking union plan was drawn up in response to the financial and then debt crises which brought down many banks and nearly drove the eurozone to its knees as governments had to be bailed out after rescuing their lenders.

The new emerging framework involves a big pooling of sovereignty and would mark a big step towards EU cross-border authority, explaining in large part why the talks have taken so long to get this far.

"There are some issues

open but I think we'll be able today to make a deal, a fair deal, a deal that can be put before the European Parliament," said Lithuanian Finance Minister Rimantas Sadzius, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU.

Determined to prevent a repeat of the crisis, the European Union aims to put in place a system to regulate banks and close down failing lenders.

A key sticking point has been who will have the final say in deciding to close a bank and how this will be paid for

The plan is for the banks to contribute to a fund for this purpose, phased in over 10 years, so that the taxpayer will no longer have to foot the bill

The problem is that the fund is unlikely to be enough in the interim period and there are sharp differences over how it could find additional or "backstop" financing.

According to a draft document seen by AFP, bridge financing could come either from the member states or from the eurozone's own rescue fund, the European Stability Mechanism.

Used for national bailouts, drawing on the ESM usually comes with tough policy conditions, but it was used controversially to provide some 41 billion euros to Spanish banks directly in 2012 without such terms.

The document says that the final winding up fund -- estimated at 55 billion euros -- will also have a backstop to provide additional finance if needed, with the banking sector ultimately liable for it.

Finance ministers from the 28-country bloc were positive yesterday that a deal was in sight, with morale boosted following an agreement late Tuesday on a deposit guarantee scheme to protect savers.

Ministers need to reach an agreement so it can be submitted for approval to an EU leaders two-day summit from today.

### Fed to taper massive US stimulus from January

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve announced yesterday it would begin to taper its massive stimulus program next month as it sees improvement in the US economy and the ailing job market.

The Fed will spend \$75 billion on bonds a month starting in January, down from the \$85 billion a month it has spent for a year in an effort to tamp down long-term interest rates to stimulate growth and jobs, the Federal Open Market Committee said after a two-day monetary policy meeting.

"In light of the cumulative progress toward maximum employment and the improvement in the outlook for labor market conditions, the Committee decided to modestly reduce the pace of its asset purchases," the FOMC said in a statement.

Noting the federal government's spending cuts since the start of the current asset-purchase program, the FOMC said it "sees the improvement in economic activity and labor

# YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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MIAMI - A bag is seen full of holiday grocery supplies being given out by a Latin American Chamber of Commerce sponsored event on December 18, 2013 in Miami, Florida. The chamber handed out 3,000 vouchers during the annual event several weeks ago and those with vouchers exchanged them today for bags of food worth up to \$250. The meals include pork, yucca, milk, soda, and bread along with other items. (AFP)



All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

#### **PICKLES**









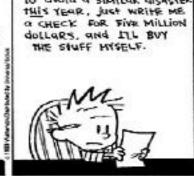
#### **MOMMA**



#### CALVIN and HOBBES



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#### CROSSWORD



#### CROSSWORD

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# Sudoku

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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

#### After 3 decades, Buccaneer is still an island favorite



and duck. On a daily basis the

food

"Shrimp

grilled seafood favorites

served with pasta and vegeta-

chef creates specials includ-

ing a daily soup. Every

food item on the menu

is made from scratch

every day. Some

choices are the

"Barracuda Meu-

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light caper lemon

Trio" your choice of

three types of shrimp

entrees, "Seduction of the sea" a medley

popular

sauce,

-- The Buccaneer Restaurant is a legendary favorite from day one that the doors opened 35 years ago. The nautical, laid back restaurant located in-between the high and low rise hotels in Aruba. The restaurant is owned and run by Josef Munzenhofer, a local Aruban who kept many of the father's traditional recipes and added new entrees. The menu is a wide and varied menu that is focused mainly on fresh caught local seafood dishes and for the not seafood lover's, poultry, lamb, angus cut beef, pasta

bles, Ceviche & Escargot are among the best sellers for appetizers and if you love rack of lamb with mint sauce than feast on this...

The restaurant has a welcoming, nautical feel with an extensive 18,000 gallon aquarium wall in the main dining room and smaller aquariums at the cozy booth, coastal maps, diving helmet, old fashion compass, shells and the eye stopper bar pro-

Fish

Surf & Turf

duced by the owner himself with tables to match,

and so much more.

or special event than Buccaneer is the right choice for you. Checkout the website with a video included of the legendary restaurant stands out from all

Planning a party

The Buccaneer kitchen is open Monday through Saturday 5:30-10:00 pm & Early Bird from 5:30-7:00 pm, closed on Sundays. Buccaneer is known for their reasonable prices and their along with a top-notch team who have kept satisfied guests coming back.

The restaurant location is 11C Gasparito. Making a reservation is easy just call 586-6172 . email - buccaneeraruba@yahoo.

#### Monaco royal family welcomes baby boy



MONACO (AFP) - Charlotte Casiraghi, the eldest daughter of Princess Caroline of Monaco, has given birth to a son, the Riviera principality's royal palace announced on Wednesday. Baby Raphael, a first child for unmarried Charlotte and a second for her Franco-Moroccan partner Gad Elmaleh, was born on Tuesday evening at Monaco's Princess Grace hospital. Charlotte, 27, is the granddaughter of the late Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace, the former Hollywood star Grace Kelly, whose fairytale 1956 wedding helped catapult Monaco from a sleepy Riviera town to a watering hole for the world's rich and famous. Her uncle, Albert II, is the current Monaco monarch and her mother Caroline is second in line to the throne. A hugely popular comedian and actor of Moroccan Jewish origin, Elmaleh, 42, has a 12-yearold son, Noe, with French actress Anne Brochet. The new baby is Princess Caroline's second grandson. Her son Andrea and South American heiress Tatiana Santo Domingo had a baby boy in March. Charlotte, a keen horse-rider, is Caroline's daughter from her second marriage to Stefano Casiraghi, an Italian industrial heir killed in a speed-boat racing accident in 1990. She is not a princess like her mother but has inherited her glamorous looks and sense of style, which have earned her a role as a face of Gucci's riding collection.

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## NBA: Heat dynasty picks up steam



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Miami Heat picked up right where they left off by returning their core group and adding key pieces like veteran Ray Allen en route to winning their second-straight NBA championship in 2013.

Talk of a Heat dynasty gained momentum and James was named MVP of both the regular season and playoffs for the second-consecutive year. He also silenced the critics who said he couldn't win the big one.

James carried the Heat on his back in two game sevens in the postseason, including a 37point, 12-rebound performance in a 95-88 win over the San Antonio Spurs to give Miami back-to-back NBA titles

"It feels great. This team is amazing," he said. "The vision I had when I decided to come here has all come true. To win back-to-back championships is an unbelievable feeling."

James had another 32 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists in a must win game six that pushed the Spurs to the brink of elimination.

Allen drained a key three pointer with five seconds left in regulation to force overtime in game six and keep the Heat's season alive.

James' game-seven playoff heroics also included scoring 39 points in a 99-76 rout by the Heat over the scrappy Indiana Pacers in the league semi-finals.

The Heat won a league-best

66 games which included an impressive 27-game win streak which began on February 3 with a win over Toronto. It marked the second longest win streak in NBA history behind the Los Angeles Lakers 33-game run in the 1971-72 sea-

The Heat are now the darlings of the NBA, just two years after becoming one of the most reviled teams in league history when James and Bosh jumped ship and joined Dwyane Wade in south Florida.

But the big three are also a year older, especially the 31year old Wade who has been suffering from chronic knee problems for the last few years.

Oklahoma City became a victim of their own success. After a strong 2011-12 season, the Thunder traded away James Harden after the two sides couldn't agree on a new contract.

The Thunder failed to find a replacement for the offensive weapon, who was sent to Houston in a trade.

In Harden's absence, Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook stepped up to lead the club to a 60-win season, but the loss of their top sixth man proved to be too much for the Thunder to overcome.

It didn't take long for the wheels to come off the Los Angeles Lakers' bid for another title. In one of the earliest firings in NBA history, the Lakers sacked coach Mike Brown after just five games of the season.

Kobe Bryant going down with a torn left Achilles tendon in April didn't help either. To top it off, Dwight Howard's brief stint in LA ended up being a bust and he eventually ended up bolting Hollwood for the low-key atmosphere of Houston.

The Lakers also lost their long-time owner Jerry Buss who died at age 80 in 2013.

On the injury front, no contending team felt the loss of a superstar more than the Chicago Bulls who lost Derrick Rose for the season with a torn ACL. In a small consolation, the Bulls were the ones who ended Miami's 27-game win streak with a victory on March 27.

NBA player Jason Collins made headlines in May by becoming the first openly gay athlete of any of the four major North American sports.

The New Jersey Nets moved to Brooklyn to become the Brooklyn Nets.

The move allowed the club to return to New York where it first played when they joined the NBA in 1976.

The first game of the 2012-13 season in Brooklyn was supposed to feature the Nets playing the New York Knicks, but it had to be postponed because of Hurricane Sandy which slammed into the east coach of the United States, killing over a hundred people and causing billion of dollars in damage.

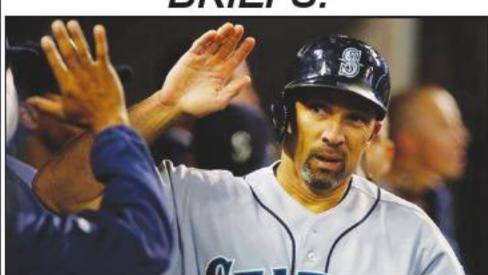


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#### **BRIEFS:**



LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Angels have signed free agent outfielder Raul Ibanez to a one year deal worth \$2.75 million it has been reported. Ibanez can also earn an additional \$2.25 in incentives, bringing the possible total value of the deal up to \$5 million. Los Angeles has seen Ibanez plenty over his 18-year career as he spent 11 of those seasons over three stints with the division-rival Seattle Mariners. He re-joined Seattle in 2013, hitting .242/.306/.487 with 29 home runs, proving that he could still be an asset despite now being 41 years old.



NEW YORK - World number two Novak Djokovic has appointed six-time Grand Slam winner Boris Becker as his head coach. The 26-year old Serb, who has also won six major titles, will start work with Becker before the Australian Open, which starts on 13 January. Djokovic's long-time coach Marian Vajda will continue as part of his team.



BOSTON - The Red Sox agreed to a trade to send Morales and minor league reliever Chris Martin to the Colorado Rockies for infielder Jonathan Herrera, MLB.com reported. Herrera adds depth to the Red Sox' infield, and likely projects as a reserve. He appeared in 81 games last season for Colorado and his .292 with a .364 OBP and a .701 OPS. Morales, a lefthanded reliever, had been with the Red Sox since 2011. He appeared in 20 games last season after battling injuries.



#### Colegio San Nicolaas and John Wesley College classify In Indoor Football

ORANJESTAD - Last Friday was the final games in School Sports organized by IBiSA in competitions for this year. The final game was the classification round in the discipline of Indoor Football for advanced schools in the San Nicolaas district. After the classification of the schools became known last week, these schools were set to measure their forces to see which of them will go to the national final.

Last Friday the games took place at the Centro Deportivo Betico Croes in Santa Cruz. The first game was between Abraham de Veer School and John Wesley College. In the first half of the game Abraham de Veer scored no goals while

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John Wesley scored one goal just before half time.

In the second half of the game John Wesley scored yet another goal bringing the game score to 2-0 with the game ending at 2-0 for John Wesley. This also allowed them to classify.

The next game was between Filomena College and Colegio San Nicolaas. In the first minutes of the game Colegio San Nicolaas scored one goal and in the second half of the game scored two more goals. Colegio San Nicolaas won this game by 3-0 to Filomena College. This qualified Colegio San Nicolaas to go to the classification game. Filomena College and Abraham de Veer had to play to see which will become third place and fourth place winners in San Nicolaas.

The game between Filomena College and Abraham de Veer School resulted in Fiomena College scoring 3 goals in the first half of the game, while Abraham de Veer School scored one goal. The game finally ended with a score of 3-1 making Abraham de veer School the fourth place winner and Filomena College third place winner This is also their position for the School Olympics to take place at the

end of May 2014.

For the classification games for San Nicolaas in Indoor Football the play was between Colegio San Nicolaas and John Wesley Colegio San Nicolaas scored 2 goals in what was considered a very emotional game. After half time the game continued with much tension with both sides working hard toward scoring goals, but the game ended with a score of 2-O for Colegio San Nicolaas classifying Colegio San Nicolaas in first place for San Nicolaas, while John Wesley classified in second place for the San Nicolaas district.

Schools classified for National Final:

For Oranjestad: Maria College MAVO and Colegio Arubano Oranjestad

For San Nicolaas: Colegio San Nicolaas and John Wesley College

These are the schools that will measure forces to see which will earn the Championship title in Indoor Football in School Sports for 2013-2014 organized by IBiSA. The games for national final are scheduled for January 2014. Everyone is invited to come out to support these youngsters for this national final competition game.

#### Successful seminar for classification of referee and judge





ORANJESTAD - On December 13 and 14 Aruba Boxing Commission held a seminar for the certification of ring officials such as referee and judge. Facilitator of the seminar was expert international referee of New Jersey, USA, Benny Esteves Jr. A total of 6 referees and 9 judges participated in the certification seminar, which was a great success.

On the first day of the seminar, Esteves reviewed the current regulations and situations which occur in the ring. The written test took place on Saturday morning at the Compleho Guillermo Trinidad betweem 10 and 12 noon.

Aruba Boxing Commission is very pleased that all ring officials who participated passed this test successfully. During a spirited ceremony at "Hamaca" on Plaza Turismo Saturday evening all ring officials received their well earned certificate from Benny Esteves Jr. in the presence of Patrick Werleman and Jessy Beukenboom treasurer and president of Aruba Boxing Commission

Classified as referee are:
Harry Croes, Salomon Buddy,
Rudi Wong Fat, Ricardo Illidge, Randy Dirksen and Gregory Oduber. The following
ring officials to certify as
Judge are: Wilfred Panneflek,
William Buckley, Randy Dirksen, Jesus Garcia, Gustavo
Pablo, Ricardo Illidge, Gregory Cuba, Gregory Oduber
and Rudi Wong Fat.

Aruba Boxing Commission is grateful to Minister of Sports Dr. Alex Schewengle, the Subsidy Commission of Lotto pa Deporte and all who contributed to making this seminar possible and successful.

#### Football: Lyon hold off Reims to reach last eight

PARIS (AFP) - Seven-time French champions Lyon reached the League Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday with a 3-2 win over fellow Ligue 1 side Reims.

Lyon, who have won the League Cup just once in 2001, twice took a two goal lead only to see Reims come back to trail by just a goal.

Goals by France international forward Bafetimbi Gomis and Alexandre Lacazette -- both scorers in Sunday's 2-2 draw with Marseille -- seemingly put Lyon in a comfortable position at 2-0 up by the hour mark.

Gomis nodded home at the far post from Lacazette's cross in the 58th minute while the latter extended their lead on the hour with a super right-footed shot after excellent lead-up work by playmaker Yoann Gourcuff.

Gourcuff, whose inconsistency has attracted criticism, restored their two goal advantage -- after Prince O'Niangue had made it 2-1 -- eight minutes from time with a cracking shot from long range having already gone close only to see his shot come back off the post.

However, Lyon's habit of letting slip leads throughout the season -- they led Marseille 2-0 last Sunday before being held to a draw -- looked as if it was going to happen again as Reims scored four minutes from the end of normal time through Floyd Ayite's penalty.

# Gold Coast Aruba... A Place for You!



#### Football: Judge demands Barca hand over Neymar contracts

MADRID (AFP) - A Spanish judge has ruled that Barcelona must submit the contracts that brought Brazilian star Neymar to the club in May to ascertain if president Sandro Rosell has a case to answer for misappropriation of funds.

Barcelona have publicly stated that the money from Neymar's signing was distributed among four companies at a total cost of 57.1 million euros (\$78.6 million, £48.2 million).

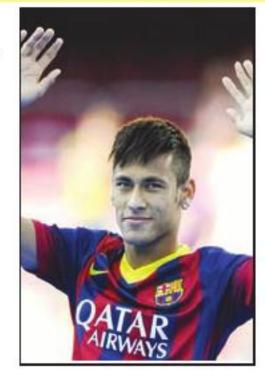
However, the club have claimed a confidentiality

clause in the contract prevents them from saying how much each of the parties received of the overall fee.

That led to a Barca member Jordi Cases launching a case against Rosell for misappropriating funds

According to Cases' complaint, only 17.1 million euros was paid for Neymar's registration rights whilst the other 40 million euros went to a company called N&N, which is owned by the player's father.

Earlier in the week prosecutors had asked the judge in the



case, Pablo Ruz, to demand Barcelona hand over the contracts involved in the player's signing, as well as the club's accounts for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Ruz has now acceded to that request and Barca have five days to submit the contracts in question to the court.

Once Ruz has studied the content in the contracts, he will then decide whether the case will proceed.

Barcelona spokesman Toni Freixa described the complaint when it was first presented as a "reckless and unfounded complaint that damaged the club's image."

However, he insisted at a press conference on Monday that the club would fully cooperate with the authorities.

"We will treat the case with the transparency with which we have acted from the beginning. We have said that for confidentiality reasons we have not given more details, but we are fully willing to provide any judicial entity the details they require from us."